

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 20: DISCUSSION OF
TINDEMANS REPORT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 9236, (B) EC BRUSSELS 8983, (C) THE HAGUE 5011

1. ACCORDING TO A COUNCIL SOURCE, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT IN RESTRICTED COUNCIL SESSION SEPTEMBER 20 DEVOTED SOME TIME TO A DISCUSSION OF TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL THAT THE EC MEMBER STATES GRADUALLY DEVELOP A COMMON (IN PLACE OF A COORDINATED) FOREIGN POLICY, IN AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE OBLIGATION TO REACH A COMMON DECISION ON SPECIFIC QUESTION, WITH THE MINORITY RALLYING TO THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, EIGHT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS PRESENT WERE FAVORABLE TO THE PROPOSAL BUT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD WAS OPPOSED.

2. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER OFFERED A COMPROMISE, ACCORDING TO WHICH THE MEMBER STATES WOULD STRIVE TO ABIDE BY THE WILL OF THE
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MAJORITY IN EVOLVING A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY ON VARIOUS

ISSUES. THIS FORMULATION WOULD PLACE A MORAL OBLIGATION ON MEMBER STATES TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY WITHOUT MAKING IT A BINDING REQUIREMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE GUIRINGAUD DID NOT AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL AT THE MEETING, BUT SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER IT AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A CONSENSUS ON THE ISSUE PRIOR TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

3. OUR SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED TINDEMANS PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO COOPERATION IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ARMS (NOTE: IN CHAPTER 2-- SECURITY -- OF THE REPORT TINDEMANS PROPOSED COOPERATION IN THE ARMS MANUFACTURE IN ORDER TO REDUCE DEFENSE COSTS AND INCREASE EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE AND COMPETITIVENESS---INCLUDING EVOLUTION OF A COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY ON ARMS PRODUCTION AND A EUROPEAN ARMS AGENCY.) DURING THE DISCUSSION ALL BUT THE FRENCH AGREED TO A PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THEIR ARMS SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, GUIRINGAUD OPPOSED INCLUSION OF THE PROPOSAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' OVERALL REPORT ON THE TINDEMANS REPORT, BUT AGREED TO CONSIDER IT AT A LATER POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING.

3. PLEASE PROTECT FOREGOING INFORMATION. HINTON

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